

# **Years of work realized during KY Tech - Letcher County ATC Groundbreaking Ceremony**



***August 6, 2010 ceremony brings out  
Letcher County school district personnel, board members,  
city and county officials, and legislators***



Having a vision and the determination to navigate through obstacles for a successful outcome is something Letcher County Schools Superintendent Anna Craft embraces. After years of hard work to attain the required funding for a new Kentucky Tech-Letcher County Area Technology Center (ATC), the groundbreaking ceremony was celebrated on Friday, August 6, 2010. The event brought out Letcher County school district personnel, Kentucky Tech faculty and staff, board members, city, county and state government officials, and legislators. The only person missing was Craft - she had suffered a heart attack earlier in the week.

From her hospital bed, Craft insisted the ceremony take place because of the importance of the event and made last minute changes to the groundbreaking agenda. Her son Aaron addressed the attendees on her behalf.

*At right: Aaron Kincer*



**Anna Craft**  
**Letcher County Schools Superintendent:**

***“Over the past 8 years, we have worked tirelessly to try to build a new Letcher County Area Technology Center. Our vision has always been to add another building beside our new high school.***

***“Over time, we have written documents, made presentations, talked with business people, board members and principals, and visited multiple governors’ offices in search of funding. We talked with anyone who had a dollar or a dream because we wanted our dream to become a reality. And, I am not only pleased, but thankful to say we have been successful.***

***“This groundbreaking ceremony represents a lot of hard work and dedication on the parts of many; however, the students of Letcher County will be the ultimate benefactors. When the bids were opened, we breathed a sigh of relief. Now that the groundbreaking ceremony has come to fruition, we can see how our vision for the school is fast becoming a reality. We thank everyone who has been involved in this endeavor including Governor Steve Beshear, Senator Johnny Ray Turner, Representative Leslie Combs and former Representative Howard Cornett who believed in our vision.”***



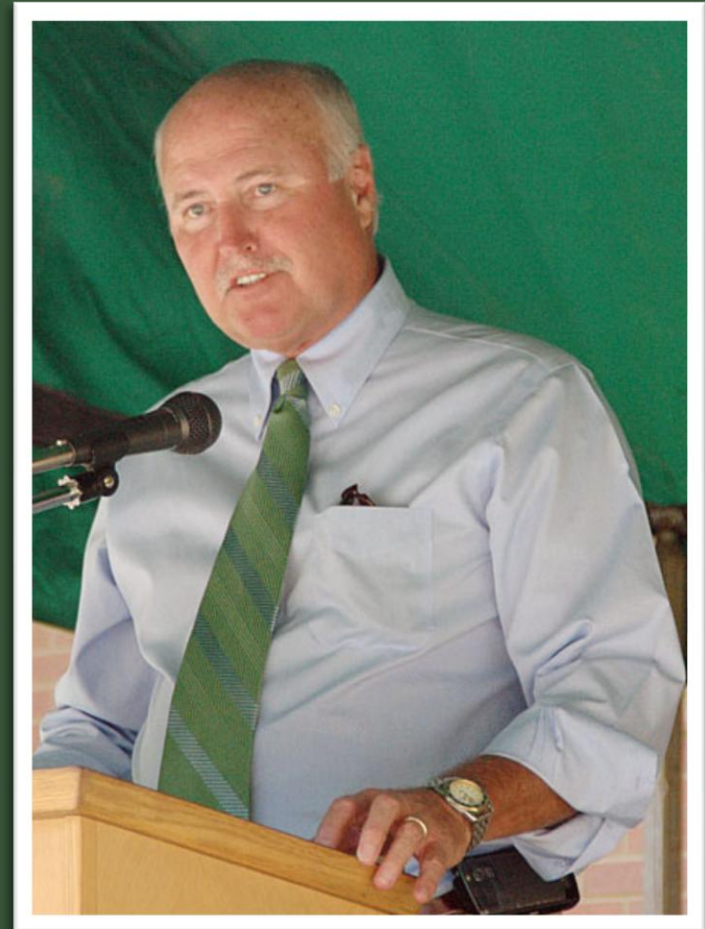


While there was excitement from the audience, those in attendance were keenly aware that the woman who championed this vision was not and each speech was laced with a tribute of her efforts, the value of skills training, and opportunities for Letcher County students.

*Senator Johnny Ray Turner:*

*“It’s great to be in a position to celebrate the culmination of our efforts for career and technical education in Letcher County through this groundbreaking ceremony. Over the past 8 years, Anna Craft worked tirelessly on a vision of high expectations. When the new high school was completed, she expanded her efforts to get the necessary funding to build a new Kentucky Tech-Letcher County Area Technology Center. The new facility will allow more of our youth an opportunity for technical training.*

*“We all understand the need for these types of projects and worked hard to help make this dream a reality. High-tech skills for our youth are essential for their success and the future of our community.”*



**Representative Leslie Combs:**

***“The KY Tech-Letcher County Area Technology Center project was accomplished because of the determination and spirit of Letcher County Superintendent Anna Craft. She worked with a group of individuals to collaborate with local and state government officials, businesses, foundations and anyone who would listen to this cause. In the end, it paid off and Letcher County will benefit as a result of these determined efforts.***

***“Thank you for your hard work to make this project such a success for Letcher County and especially for the students it will serve. Career and technical education is an important building block and students in Letcher County deserve a state of the art technology center.”***

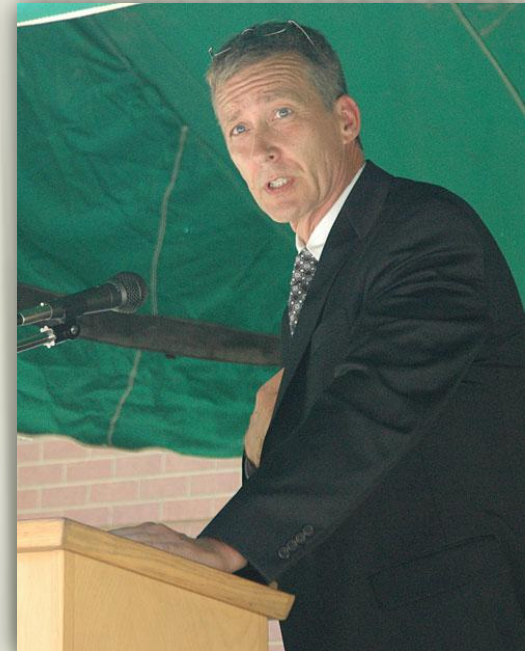




**Office of Career and Technical Education deputy executive director Mike Kindred was on hand for the festivities and praised the efforts of those involved in making the dream become a reality.**

***Kindred:***

***“We salute superintendent Anna Craft for her vision and dedicated efforts in securing a new Kentucky Tech area technology center. We thank the many individuals from the local district, business and industry, and private foundations for their time and efforts in reaching for a successful outcome; and we all appreciate the legislators who voted to help fund this new facility including Senator Turner and Representative Combs. The years of hard work will provide benefits that are far reaching for Letcher County students. Many across Kentucky understand the value of career and technical education - many would love to be in the same position as Letcher County.***



***“As a result of these united efforts, students will enjoy a new and modern area technology center where they can continue to have access to quality technical education and skills training that includes industry certified teachers and programs, education that addresses multiple learning styles, leadership in employability skills that is second to none, relationships and relevance that supports rigor, and articulation and dual credit opportunities to pursue a pathway to postsecondary education.”***



*Photo (l to r): Danny Vance, KY Tech-Letcher Co. ATC principal; Senator Turner, Kindred, and Barbara Ison, former Letcher Co. ATC principal.*

The vision began in the fall of 2001 when Craft became superintendent. The district's master plan included building a new ATC adjacent to the new Letcher County Central High School. From purchasing a mountain to excavating rock, they achieved flat land for construction of two new schools. When the new high school was completed approximately 5 ½ years ago, the goal was to put an ATC on site when funds became available. Throughout the process of raising funds for the ATC to become a reality, former principal Barbara Ison was an integral member of the project's steering committee. Among many duties, she helped set up visits for committee members to see other new Kentucky Tech ATC's across the state.





**Ison:**

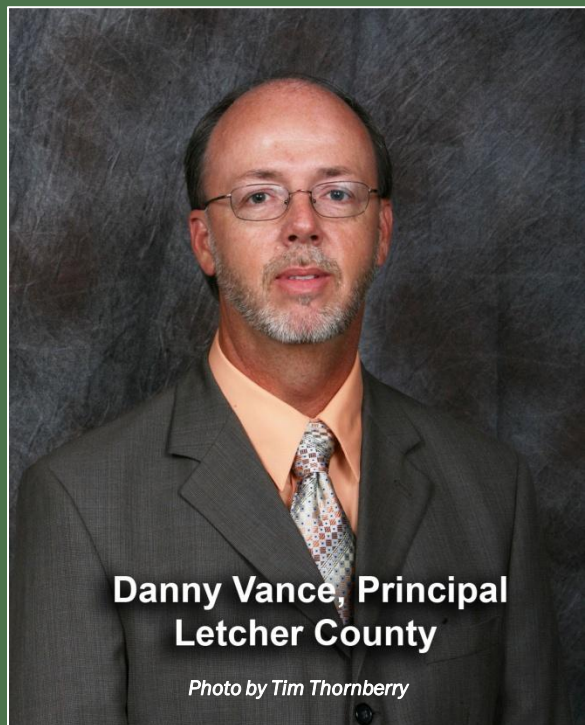
***“I can’t tell you how many times I just wanted to give up on the idea of having a new technical center and just remodel the one we have. I just didn’t want to tell the staff we would not get a new building. I am so glad that Superintendent Craft did not lose sight of her vision of having a new technical center for students in Letcher County. Students will no longer have to ride a bus to take a technical class; they will cross a breezeway and be there. The students in Letcher County and statewide deserve the very best facility, teachers, equipment and supplies to prepare for their future. It has taken eight years to get to here, and I am so glad that it has become a reality for the students in Letcher County.*”**

***“I am excited and proud to have been a part of the process of getting the new school. Danny Vance, the new principal, has a strong background in technical education and I am confident that he will work tirelessly to make sure that the school serves the needs of students in Letcher County.”***

*Photo by Tim Thornberry*



**Danny Vance officially began his new position as Letcher County Area Technology Center principal on July 1. He begins where a seasoned principal left off – with an eye toward the future, a reality of moving his faculty and staff into a brand new school, and opportunities to help students reach their college and career goals.**



**Danny Vance, Principal  
Letcher County**

*Photo by Tim Thornberry*

**Vance:**

*“As the new principal of the KY Tech-Letcher County Area Technology Center, it was an honor for me and our entire staff to be included in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility. Our former principal Barbara Ison and Letcher County Schools superintendent Anna Craft have worked extremely hard to secure funding for the new school and the impact of their efforts will be felt throughout the county. They have succeeded in their dream of a new technology center being built on the campus of Letcher County Central High School.*

*“It is my goal to carry on the hard work and dedication that Barbara Ison has exemplified for many years. As we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. We will work together as a team to provide the best career and technical education programs for students, continue developing strong partnerships with district personnel, and when needed, we will help oversee construction of the new building. Most of all, we are committed to serving the needs of Letcher County citizens.*

*“By enhancing the ability for our instructors to provide technical education and skills training in a new and safe environment, we will help the educational growth of students in the Letcher County school district. On behalf of the entire KY Tech- Letcher County ATC faculty and staff, we thank everyone for their solid support in pursuing a new facility for career and technical education in Letcher County.”*